

# 2014 GCA HONOREES

## SHINING LIGHTS & CONNECTORS BUILDING FOUNDATIONS IN SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

*Ronald H. Lammy, Chair, GCA of NY Awards Committee*

Our anniversary theme in 2014 is, on one level, within the tradition of celebrating the creativity of our Guyanese heritage. We Bridgin' recognizes an understated factor in our lives for decades and thus raises our awareness of how we have conducted ourselves. We see through the Bridgin' lens what we have done and should do to make the conditions better.

There is an indirect prodding in Bridgin' for us to address the political and racial challenges that have grown and bother nearly all of us. This next level of attentiveness to our way of life portends well as we use our arts and cultural attributes collaboratively.

The span of accomplishments of this year's Awardees shows the capabilities that Guyanese have developed and displayed effectively in the homeland and in the Diaspora. Many of our honored compatriots have worked not only as connectors, but to build foundations in service to the society. Most are unsung in our dear land.

This year's Awardees are shining lights with accomplishments in education - music, social sciences, and pedagogy; performing and visual arts; aviation; and contemporary media. Everyone in, her or his, pursuit of excellence has made a mark for which Guyanese can be proud.

We note in the achievements of our Lifetime and Exemplary Awardees - Patricia Jordon Langford, Dr. Marjorie Jones and Dr. Moses Telford, respectively - decades-long walks and actions of crossing racial, social, and political boundaries to attain outcomes beneficial to all who needed to be served. They engendered feelings of trust in them and their initiatives to attain the worthy goals they pursued which enriched the Guyanese society. All true to the theme.

**Ronald H Lammy**

*Chair, GCA of NY Awards Committee.*

The GCA Award identifies talented people and enabling entities to acknowledge their contribution to society and to encourage others by their sterling examples. These may be individuals or an entity.

The Awards also illuminate the tenets of Guyanese heritage that guided the honorees to success.

They are in four categories and presented in five groups in 2014.

**Patricia Jordon-Langford** possesses a strong sense of civic responsibility and has dedicated her life to contributing to her communities in Guyana and its Diaspora. Her philanthropic endeavors have been focused on education and mentoring and the impact on youth has been outstanding. Over the last twelve years she provided scholarships and mentored fourteen college students. The last one graduated in 2014. Ms Jordon-Langford has for 22 years had a strong commitment to the empowerment of fellow Guyanese. She has been engaged in many successful projects of benefit to the indigent and abused - women and children. Recognition of her prodigious accomplishments has come in numerous awards from various sectors of the society. GCA is most proud to name her as its 2014 Lifetime Awardee.

**Dr. Marjorie Jones** is a model of excellence who has dedicated her life to moving Guyanese "onward and upward" through intelligence and knowledge to confront fear and ignorance. She is an outstanding educator because of her balance of passion, brainpower and workable solutions. One such had a seminal effect in Guyana. It shows her ability to transcend political par-

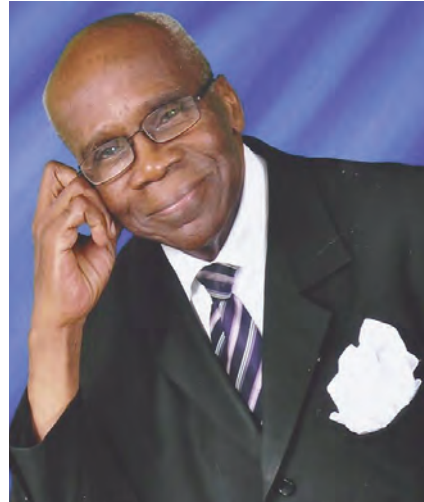
titions to the benefit of all Guyanese. The current government of Guyana has capitalized on Dr Jones' momentous contribution as an enabler. In May 2014, Dr Jones witnessed the graduation of thirteen multi-racial Guyanese at Lesley University with Masters Degrees. She had enabled that achievement by applying her superior skills in cultural humility - knowing how and getting the work done. Unsung in her homeland, she is recognized with the Exemplary Award.

**Dr Moses Telford** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Exemplary Award. He is being recognized for an extraordinary career in music education in Guyana and its Diaspora. His teaching career at the secondary level in Berbice and at the Teacher's Training College in Georgetown was influential with remarkable results. Dr Telford's professional contributions and achievements were impactful in rural and urban Guyana; in London, England; and in American metropolitan cities. Guyana's rich cultural and multi-ethnic heritage can be discerned as an inspiration from his numerous academic and other accomplishments.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GCA HONOREES



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
Patricia Jordon-Langford



EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT  
Dr. Moses Telford



EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT  
Dr. Marjorie Jones



GCA AWARD  
Selwyn Collins



GCA AWARD  
Dr. Carmen Bovell



GCA AWARD  
Col. Lawrence London



GCA AWARD  
Bernadette Persaud



GCA AWARD  
Adrian Dutchin



GCA AWARD  
Major Russell C.M. Edun



GCA AWARD  
Julio Thijs



GCA AWARD  
Lionel Augustus Lachmansingh



GCA AWARD  
Grace Aneiza Ali

2014 FOLK FESTIVAL SEASON

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*Ronald Lammy, Committee Chair*

**Dr. Carmen Bovell** has had outstanding accomplishments in Education and its pedagogy, and philanthropic activity in Guyana for over three decades. She is a Guyana Teacher's Training College graduate and a Fulbright Scholar. As a Founding member and a president of Guyanese Assisting in Development, she worked to address the social needs of indigent school children and the elderly. Donations also went to children with disabilities. The organization adopted the Ithaca Primary School in New Amsterdam. Dr. Bovell actively participated in a partnership with the Ministry of Education in an annual essay competition for various age groups.

**Selwyn Collins** is a talk show host and author who is recognized for establishing a contemporary media space to give access to a broad spectrum of voices. On his show, Guyanese and Caribbean nationals are given respect and acknowledged for their brilliance, courage, determination, academic, and intellectual excellence. His "Conversations" have been conducted with guests from the exemplary and notable to the man on the street with a message and common sense wisdom, and the youth with a mission to make a difference in the community. Selwyn has been a trailblazing innovator whose forum showcases Guyana's multi-ethnic heritage.

**Adrian Dutchin** is recognized for his accomplishments in the Performing Arts. He has an impressive portfolio of performances within the Guyanese and Caribbean Diaspora. A special feature of his career as a Guyanese entertainer is his ability to have several duet-like performances with his contemporaries of different genre.

**Norma Ramalho-Bacchus** is a 2014 honoree for her outstanding achievements in the performing arts, and for her dedication to sharing her talents in her quest to ensure that this aspect of our cultural heritage is retained. In 1966, she was accorded the distinctive honor of participating in the selection of Guyana's National Anthem. It was her duty to play the piano for all of the entries from which the final selection was made by the judging panel.



GCA AWARD  
Michael Currica



BUSINESS ENABLER  
Demerara Distillers Ltd.



GCA AWARD  
Norma Ramalho-  
Bacchus

**Lionel Lachmansingh** is an honoree for his pioneering enablement of a new group and fostering of musicianship in the performing arts. As founder of Bumble and The Saints, a 1960s popular music band led by the innovative guitarist and composer, Colin Wharton, Mr. Lachmansingh helped elevate a budding era of creativity. The success of his initiative, whose goal was to encourage the inclusiveness of young musicians, was inspired by Guyana's rich multi-ethnic heritage.

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**Julio Thijs** is being recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in the art of stilt dancing and continuous efforts to broadly propagate its artistry. He is the protégée of Masquerader, Boysie Sage whom he credits with this unique skill that he has perfected over a span of forty-eight years. He displays a devotion to his talented presentations which are representative of the inspiration he derives from Guyana's rich cultural heritage. He has returned to Guyana to expand the art form by conducting many workshops and teaching the art of stilt dancing to young people across the nation.

**Grace Aneiza Ali** is recognized for a significant accomplishment in contemporary media. The online magazine OF NOTE is leading edge in its application of the arts as catalytic mechanism for activism and social change. The use of multi-media to portray the artistic and cultural productions of Guyana and Guyanese in the Diaspora is most noteworthy.

**Major Russell C.M. Edun** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Award in recognition of a pioneering career in aviation in Guyana. It spans two decades with the Guyana Airways and the Guyana Defense Force. Major Edun's service in the Air Force was ground breaking leaving a record of excellence. Later, he joined the commercial North American Airlines and in 2004, he became the first pilot to land a B757/767 in Guyana. Currently he is an Adjunct Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, his alma mater and a First Officer of United Parcel Service, where he flies the B747-400 globally.

**Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence H. London** receives the Award for an extraordinary career in aviation in Guyana. Mr. London's professional contributions and achievements were impactful across the geography of Guyana both in the Guyanese military and commercial sectors. The two industries were emergent in the newly independent Guyana and his service spanned two decades from 1970. His proficiency in the Air Force was foundation-setting with remarkable results. In November 2013, the Guyana Defense Force main hangar and Air Corps Headquarters was renamed the "Air Station London" in his honor. Colonel Larry London holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's Degree from Embry Riddle University of Aeronautics.



YOUTH AWARD  
Roger David Ng-A-Qui



YOUTH AWARD  
Kamiyah Parchment

**Michael Currica** receives the GCA 2014 Award for his influential and substantive role in scoring and arranging Guyanese compositions in private and governmental endeavors. His transcription skills have helped to preserve notable Guyanese compositions from folk music to opera. The wide span of genres he covered defines the many aspects of Guyana's rich multicultural heritage that inspired him. Blooming during the early post independence period Mr. Currica earned the high regard of his mentors and his contemporaries.

**Cloyette Harris-Stoute** receives the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Award for her outstanding accomplishment in contemporary media. GuyaneseGirlsRock.com was "created to inspire, motivate and celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of Guyanese women across the globe". The successes of these women are showcased as examples for girls to follow in pursuit of their dreams. The varied profiles of Guyanese women are attributed to Guyana's multi-ethnic heritage.

**Bernadette Indira Persaud** receives the Guyana Cultural Association award for her superior contributions and outstanding accomplishments in the visual arts. Ms. Persaud has held exhibitions in the USA, UK, Canada, India, Mauritius, Suriname and the Caribbean. She taught at the Burrowes School of Art (1991-1999), and the University of Guyana (2000-2007). Her paintings and essays on art have been widely represented, both at home and abroad, and in several private and corporate collections. Ms Persaud has expressed "great satisfaction and pleasure to know that my work has been able to transcend/bridge both political and ethnocultural divisions, so fraught in our society -at home."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 GCA AWARDS HONOREES

### Youth:

**Roger David Ng-A-Qui** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Youth Award. He is being recognized for his superior scholastic accomplishments at Phillips Exeter Academy and current pursuit of academic excellence at Yale University. GCA especially wishes to acknowledge his multi-lingual studies and fluency coupled with community service.

**Kamiyah Parchment** has been selected as a recipient of the 2014 Guyana Cultural Association Youth Award. GCA recognizes her honor student status and encourages her to continue to uphold it in pursuit of academic excellence. The organization particularly acknowledges her exceptionally gifted vocal performances.